

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 27, 2007, 1:30 p.m.

Executive Building, Suite 103

521 S 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Video Conference Sites:

Chadron State College - Student Center - Scottsbluff Room, 10th & Main, Chadron, NE

University of Nebraska-Kearney, Founders Hall - Warner Conference Room, Kearney, NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy, Chair

Lance Hedquist, City Administrator, South Sioux City

Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Superintendent, Laurel-Concord, Coleridge, Wynot & Newcastle Public Schools

Mike Huggenberger, Director-Netlink, Great Plains Communications

Dr. Doug Kristensen, Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Kearney (Kearney)

Dr. Janie Park, President, Chadron State College (Chadron)

Trev Peterson, Attorney, Knudsen, Berkheimer, Richardson, and Endacott, LLP

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Aerni, Chief Executive Officer, Community Internet Systems

Pat Flanagan, Information Services Manager, Mutual of Omaha

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF MEETING, & OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Lieutenant Governor Sheehy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There were seven voting commissioners present at the time of roll call. A quorum was present to conduct official business. It was stated that the meeting notice and agenda were posted to the NITC website and the [Public Meeting Calendar website](#) on November 21, 2007. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the table next to the east entry door and at each of the video conference locations.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007 MINUTES *

Commissioner Hedquist moved to approve the [September 18, 2007 minutes](#) as presented. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Roll call vote: Sheehy-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Huggenberger-Yes, Kristensen-Yes, Park-Yes, Peterson-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

LB 1208 Implementation - Phase II. An RFP has been released for Phase 2 to bid for the southwestern portion of the 402-south area, the 308 LATA area, and interregional transfer between Lincoln, Grand Island and Omaha. Three bids were received and are being evaluated: Charter Business, Qwest and Windstream. The RFP had nine sections upon which vendors could bid. The school districts will have the option to go with WAN services only or WAN services/routers. The bid rates varied from a postalized \$8,483.96/month to individual site costs similar to Phase 1. For some of the Educational Service Units in those areas, it became apparent that the WAN costs were not acceptable. Bids for sections 1-6 of the RFP were rejected. The Office of the CIO released another RFP for the regional bids. The second bid cycle will comply with E-rate requirements and be decided in time to meet the February 7 filing deadline.

Public Safety Wireless Update. An RFI (Request for Information) was released seeking input from providers. Responses are being evaluated. An RFP is scheduled to be released in January. Lt. Governor Sheehy informed the Commission that FEMA Region VII is in the process of putting together cross-border connections.

Microsoft Exchange Conversion. As of last week, over 1,500 mailboxes had been converted. The Office of the CIO was the first to be converted. The conversion project is on schedule and under budget.

NITC Joint Briefing to the Appropriations and Transportation and Telecommunications Committees, November 9, 2007. By state statute, the Appropriations Committee and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee of the Legislature are required to perform a joint review of the NITC every two years. On November 9, these committees held a joint hearing attended by Lieutenant Governor Sheehy and Ms. Decker. Committee members were given the Office of the CIO Annual Report and the 2007 Statewide Technology Plan. Most of the questions asked pertained to the implementation of LB 1208. Senators expressed an appreciation for the work and accomplishments of the NITC. Lt. Governor Sheehy stated that the committees understand the importance of technology to the State of Nebraska.

Senator Mick Mines has resigned from the Legislature. Senator Annette Dubas will be his replacement as the Legislative liaison on the NITC.

NITC Legislative Performance Audit Committee Hearing, November 20, 2007: Lieutenant Governor Sheehy and Ms. Decker testified at the hearing. Discussion occurred regarding the budget and staffing impact if additional authority and duties were given to the NITC. Discussion also occurred regarding reviewing projects beyond the planning stage. The Legislative Performance Audit Committee staff will be meeting with the NITC staff to discuss possible legislation.

STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL OF [STRATEGIC INITIATIVES](#)

At the September meeting, Commissioners had been informed that reviewing the NITC's strategic initiatives would be an action item at the November meeting. Currently, the strategic initiatives are:

- Network Nebraska
- Community IT Planning and Development
- eHealth
- Public Safety Communications System
- Digital Education
- State Government Efficiency
- E-Government
- Security and Business Resumption

Commissioner Kristensen moved to maintain and continue work on the current strategic initiatives. Commissioner Park seconded. Roll call vote: Peterson-Yes, Park-Yes, Kristensen-Yes, Huggenberger-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, and Sheehy-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0. Motion carried.

NITC REVIEW OF FY 2008 DEFICIT BUDGET REQUESTS

Lt. Governor Sheehy reminded commissioners that these projects were reviewed by the NITC last year, and at that time they were classified as Tier 1 mission critical projects.

Ed Hoffman, Vice Chancellor for Facilities, Planning and Technology for the State College System, and Walter Weir, Chief Information Office for the University of Nebraska, were present to answer questions

regarding the projects. Both institutions have used their current SIS systems for at least 20 years. Two years ago, the vendor informed them that they were phasing out support of the current system. At that time, there was not a definite timeline as to when this would occur. They have now been informed that support will discontinue in December 2011 and only about 25 college clients remain nationwide using the legacy software system.

Nebraska State College System - [Student Information Administrative System \(Summary Sheet\)](#)

Questions and responses regarding the State College System project included:

- What do the \$605,000 on-going costs entail? Response: This would cover the cost of the additional full-time staff for the implementation phase of the new system.
- Will this be a concern for ongoing staff costs? Response: After implementation has been completed, current staff will take on operational responsibilities for the system.
- Has an RFP been released? Response: Yes, five bids were received. The State College System expects to narrow the number of vendors to three. The final part of the RFP process will be delayed until after the Legislature decides whether to fund the project.
- Would the system be interoperable with the UN system? Response: This would depend on the choice of technology and vendor.
- Is the State College System going to put everything on hold until the University of Nebraska releases their RFP? Response: The State College System would like to proceed with its evaluation of vendors and does not want to abandon its process.

University of Nebraska - [Student Information System \(Summary Sheet\)](#)

Questions and comments regarding the University of Nebraska project included:

- Concern was expressed regarding the high cost of consultant and travel expenses. Response: These costs are estimated based on what was expended when SAP was implemented. If funded, these fees would be locked in for duration of the project. Mr. Weir stated the University student information system affects admissions, financial aid, housing, bookstore, and the alumni association, among other services.
- Is the deficit request of \$17 million a one-time request? Response: Yes, it is to cover hardware, software, networking costs.
- Commissioners asked about space & furniture costs. Response: Project staff will be working on this project for two years and are looking for office and a network space. These are estimated costs.
- What are backfill monies? Response: Staff will be pulled to do project implementation; these are to fill the positions that are temporarily vacated.
- What is being done about current risks of the system? Response: Sun Guard is fixing only critical issues. Mr. Weir stated that they have released an RFP to hire a consultant by March. The consultant would assess the university's needs and make recommendations for the RFP. The goal is to begin implementation of a new system in the Fall 2008 to work out problems before it is fully implemented.

Discussion occurred regarding the needs of the University of Nebraska and the State College System. A few years ago, the University of Nebraska implemented SAP which encompasses the institution's financial and human resources. The State College System is requesting an enterprise system that would encompass student information, financial aid, housing, financial, and human resources systems. Both institutions use interfaces that feed into the State of Nebraska's NIS (Nebraska Information System).

Lt. Governor Sheehy expressed concern regarding the NITC's original recommendation for the institutions to collaborate efforts on these projects.

Commissioner Park expressed concern that a joint purchase could result in the State College System receiving a system that is more expensive and complex than what it could obtain individually.

Commissioner Kristensen commented that the NITC should strongly recommend that these two projects work together as one project.

Commissioner Kristensen moved that Projects 50-01 and 51-01 maintain the designation of a Tier 1 Priority [defined as: "Highly Recommended. Mission critical project for the agency and/or the state."], and that the NITC include the following remarks:

- **To the extent possible, both the State College System and the University of Nebraska must synchronize their RFP processes and co-evaluate vendors.**
- **To require an analysis of cost-savings and an analysis of 'effect on students' for two pathways:**
 - **Centralization and cooperative hosting of Projects 50-01 and 51-01**
 - **Adoption of a single vendor for Projects 50-01 and 51-01**
- **To require a unified look at adopting the same vendor by both the State College System and the University of Nebraska; and if not the same result, to provide a justification for divergence.**

Commissioner Hoelsing seconded. Roll call vote: Sheehy-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Huggenberger-Yes, Kristensen-Yes, Park-Yes, and Peterson-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0. Motion carried.

REPORT - COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Anne Byers, Community I.T. Manager

The Community Council met in Columbus on November 5. Commissioner Aerni attended as a guest of the council. The Community Council has developed the following goals to provide direction and focus their activities:

- Promote technology available to communities across the state;
- Educate, share information, and be a resource to communities;
- Promote/educate what resources are available today to develop better community Web sites at a low cost;
- Identify needs in communities and to communicate those needs to the NITC and other entities as appropriate.

These goals will be incorporated into the Community IT Planning and Development strategic initiative.

Ms. Byers acknowledged and thanked the following council members for the assistance in development of the goals: John Jordison, Angie Ramaekers, Darla Heggem, Dan Shundoff, Caleb Pollard, Bethanne Kunz, and Scott Bovick. Work groups have already been formed to work on action items.

Membership. The following Community Council members' terms are up for renewal and they have agreed to serve another term:

- Norene Fitzgerald, Economic Development Professional
- John Jordison, Great Plains Communications
- Chris Anderson, City Administrator, Central City
- Lynn Manhart, Director, Central City Public Library
- Michael Nolan, City Administrator, City of Norfolk
- Ted Smith, Director, Norfolk Public Library

Commissioner Hedquist moved to approve the Community Council's recommendation for membership renewals. Commissioner Park seconded. Roll call vote: Huggenberger-Yes, Kristensen-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Park-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Sheehy-Yes, and Peterson-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0. Motion carried.

REPORT - EHEALTH COUNCIL

Anne Byers, Community I.T. Manager

eHealth Council Meeting and Newsletter. The next meeting of the NITC eHealth Council will be held on Dec. 10, 2007 from 1:30 to 4:30. The Council will begin to develop a plan of work which will be incorporated into the Statewide Technology Plan. A monthly newsletter has been started to keep stakeholders informed of key eHealth developments in Nebraska and in the United States.

Health Information Security and Privacy. Nebraska is participating in a nine-state proposal to develop and test standards for business practices related to health information security and privacy. Three initiatives in Nebraska are interested in participating in the project. The nine-state collaborative will receive feedback from RTI and the Office of the National Coordinator in early December. Through the proposal, Nebraska may receive funding to support the efforts of the Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee.

New Grants. The Nebraska Office of Rural Health was awarded a grant through the FLEX Critical Access Hospital Health Information Technology Network Implementation Grant program. The project will implement sustainable interoperable health information technology in Thayer County/Hebron, Nebraska and surrounding communities in Nebraska and Kansas. Two Nebraska hospital systems and one South Dakota hospital system serving residents of Nebraska received USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. In Nebraska, Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk received \$149,435, Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation of Kearney received \$116,952, and Avera Health of Sioux Falls, SD received \$488,354. Ms. Byers stated that just recently a consortium of nine hospitals in the Nebraska panhandle received a \$19 million grant from the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program to put in a fiber network to support their telehealth efforts.

Other Meetings. David Lawton gave a presentation at the NGA State Alliance for eHealth Health Information Communication and Data Exchange Taskforce meeting on Nov. 16. Mr. Lawton will also be presenting information on Nebraska's eHealth Initiatives at the Colorado/DHHS Region VII Health IT Symposium on Dec. 3-4. Anne Byers will also be attending that meeting.

REPORTS - EDUCATION COUNCIL

Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager

The Education Council has met twice since the last NITC meeting. At the September 28 meeting, Dr. Michael Chipps was elected as the new higher education co-chair. Regular LB 1208 updates continue to be provided to the Council. The Council also reviewed the initiatives and will be working on additional action items. No changes were recommended for the NITC Strategic Initiatives. Midland Lutheran College has requested a presentation to learn about Network Nebraska and LB 1208.

Membership. Joe LeDuc has resigned as the council's private-parochial education sector representative. Stephen Hamersky has been nominated to be his replacement.

Commissioner Kristensen moved to approve the Education Council's recommendation of Stephen Hamersky as a new member. Commissioner Hoelsing seconded. Roll call vote: Park-Yes, Kristensen-Yes, Peterson-Yes, Huggenberger-Yes, Sheehy-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, and Hoelsing-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0. Motion carried.

REPORT - STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Rick Becker, State Government I.T. Manager

NITC Strategic Initiatives. At the November 20 meeting, the SGC members reviewed the State Government Efficiency, E-Government, and Security and Business Resumption strategic initiatives. No changes were recommended.

Government Technology Collaboration Fund Grant. Also on November 20, the council unanimously recommended approval of the grant application submitted by the Security Architecture Work Group for the Vulnerability Threat Management project. This is an action item in the Technical Panel report.

Nebraska Digital Government Summit. The ninth annual Nebraska Digital Government Summit was held on November 8 in Lincoln. There were about 200 attendees, including officials, managers and IT staff from state and local government. The summit opened with remarks from Governor Heineman, and featured keynote speaker Neal Petersen, an adventurer and author. The theme of the keynote was "No Barriers, Only Solutions." The summit had several breakout sessions focusing on specific topics, including Electronic Records and eDiscovery, Making the Business Case, Portfolio Management, Security Policies and Practices, and Enterprise Communications.

One-Stop Business Registration Information System. Enhancements to the online Business Portal, with a new One Stop Business Registration Information System, have been completed and are now available on the Nebraska.gov website (<https://www.nebraska.gov/osbr/>). The system provides users with links to the most common forms required for starting a new business in Nebraska. The project was a joint effort by Nebraska.gov, the Secretary of State, Department of Revenue, Department of Labor, Department of Economic Development, Workers' Compensation Court, and the Office of the CIO.

Nebraska Wins "Best of the Web" Awards. In September, the Center for Digital Government ranked [Nebraska.gov](https://www.nebraska.gov) as one of the top 10 state government websites in its 2007 Best of the Web competition. The Center also awarded the Secretary of State's Rules and Regulations Tracking System an honorable mention in its Digital Government Achievement Awards.

REPORTS - TECHNICAL PANEL REPORT

The Technical Panel has met once since the last meeting. The Technical Panel received a project update from the Retirement System and reviewed of the University of Nebraska and the State College System deficit request projects.

Government Technology Collaboration Fund Grant Application – Vulnerability Threat Management. The NITC Technical Panel Security Architecture Work Group, under the leadership of Steve Hartman, has submitted a grant to be funded from the Government Technology Collaboration Fund. Currently, the State of Nebraska does periodic vulnerability scans through a third party vendor. This project will provide a tool for the Office of the CIO to do vulnerability scans for state agencies as needed or by granting administrative rights to an agency. All scans will be done in collaboration with the Office of the CIO.

Commissioner Flanagan sent a memo of support for the grant.

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the [Vulnerability Threat Management](#) grant. Commissioner Huggenberger seconded. Roll call vote: Huggenberger-Yes, Peterson-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Sheehy-Yes, Hedquist-Yes, Park-Yes, and Kristensen-Yes. Results: Yes-7, No-0. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hedquist moved to adjourn. Commissioner Peterson seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Meeting minutes taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the staff of the Office of the CIO/NITC.